

HOUSE BILL 2985  
By Kisber

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, relative to establishing a state-funded incentive program designed to stimulate business and corporate involvement in student financial aid by partially subsidizing students in career-related work-study positions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 8 of this act as a new part, to be appropriately designated:

SECTION 2. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Student Employment Incentive Program Act of 1996".

SECTION 3. The purpose of this act is to provide Tennessee resident students enrolled at eligible higher education institutions with greater opportunities for career-related employment as the students complete their undergraduate and graduate course curricula. The Tennessee Student Employment Incentive Program achieves the twin goals of giving students more career-related work experiences and providing private sector employers with an avenue to assist students toward their educational goals.

SECTION 4. The state of Tennessee shall provide reimbursement of up to thirty-five percent (35%) of the wages of participating students employed by private, for-profit and non-profit employers, providing that the employment of these students does not result in the displacement of existing members of the private firm's workforce. Participating students must be enrolled on at least a half-time basis in an eligible institution as defined herein.

SECTION 5. The funds supplied through the Tennessee Student Employment Incentive Program shall be paid directly to students in the manner specified in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-302, or as a reimbursement to employers of such students, who provide needed services for a specified number of hours in a capacity approved by the board of directors of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

SECTION 6. The Tennessee Student Employment Incentive Program shall be open to Tennessee resident students, as defined by regulations promulgated by the board of regents for the state university and community college system, who are enrolled at institutions of higher education that are certified as eligible for participation in the Tennessee Student Assistance Award program.

SECTION 7. The Tennessee Student Employment Incentive Program shall be phased in over a two-year period. First year funding shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for program start-up and implementation. Funding in subsequent years shall depend on the number of work-study positions provided by companies in the private sector. The program shall be administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation. Implementation funding shall be used to recruit businesses and corporations for program participation by a program coordinator and appropriate support staff. In the event that the funds appropriated for the program are not utilized in any given year, such funds remaining shall revert to the Tennessee Student Assistance Award Program for distribution as need-based financial aid grants.

SECTION 8. Implementation of the provisions of this act shall be subject to the funding being provided in the general appropriations act.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 1996, the public welfare requiring it, but no expenditure shall be made until funds are appropriated for that purpose.